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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Mother and Daughter Charged for Looting in Smash and Grab Raids

(U) Francill White, 53, and daughter Kimberly Cherry, 28, were two of five looters nabbed by police for the 19 November incident that saw thieves make off with more than \$1 million worth of designer goods. Along with co-accused Tameko Miller, 23, and Ivan Speed, 34, authorities charged the pair with four felony counts of looting during a state of emergency, second-degree commercial burglary, grand theft, and receiving stolen property. White and Cherry have a criminal history of robbing department stores dating back to 1993 and 2014. Organized crime police believe that crime gangs organized the raids and planned to sell the stolen merchandise overseas.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, Daily Mail

(U) Vallejo – Two Arrested, More Than \$200K Worth of Merchandise Seized in Retail Theft Ring Bust

(U) The California Highway Patrol (CHP) Golden Gate Division announced a recent investigation by their Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) that led to the arrest of two suspects linked to stashes of over \$200,000 in stolen retail merchandise. CHP investigators worked with the San Francisco Police Department's Retail Theft Unit to uncover the sizeable retail theft operation. CHP investigators obtained and executed a search warrant at a residence in Vallejo and found evidence of retail theft involving numerous retailers, including CVS, Victoria's Secret, GAP, Target, Lens Crafters, TJX, Nordstrom, Walgreens, Safeway, and several others. In addition to the residence, police served a search warrant at a Vallejo storage facility connected to the suspect. At the same time, the SFPD Retail Theft Unit assisted the ORCTF with a search warrant at a second storage facility in San Francisco.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, CBS Local

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – US Citizen Suspected of Human Smuggling Arrested by Border Patrol

(U) Indio – A US citizen suspected of human and narcotics smuggling was taken into custody in Indio by El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents patrolling Interstate 10. Agents pulled over a vehicle and interviewed the vehicle's occupants. After determining that two individuals did not possess the proper documentation to be in the US, officials transported all four individuals to the Indio station for further questioning. Further inspection of the vehicle yielded methamphetamine and 250 pills which tested positive for fentanyl. Authorities have not released the identities of the driver and vehicle occupants. SOURCE: 14 December 2021, Patch

(U) NATIONAL

(U) South Carolina – SWAT Seizes More Than 100-Pounds of Methamphetamine

(U) Rock Hill – South Carolina police arrested two people after seizing more than 100-pounds of methamphetamine worth \$5 million in what officials believe is the largest meth bust in York County history. The Rock Hill Police Department SWAT team and York County drug agents seized 49-kilos of

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meth from a Rock Hill home. Officers found chemicals and other materials used to make the powder meth into crystallized form while investigating the premises. Authorities charged two men at the scene, according to police and jail records. Fabian Vaca-Mendez, 23, and Juan Valencia-Carbajal, 26, are both charged with trafficking methamphetamine over 400-grams. Valencia-Carbajal was booked with an address of Menlo Park, California. It remains unclear where Vaca-Mendez claims as a home address. SOURCE: 14 December 2021, Herald Online

(U) Dallas – On Tuesday, two North Texas men were arrested by the FBI and accused of dressing in tactical gear and assaulting officers during the 6 January riot at the US Capitol. Donald Hazard, 43, of Hurst, and Lucas Denney, 44, of Mansfield, face multiple charges connected with the attack on Congress.

(U) Texas – Two Men Arrested, Accused of Assaulting Officers During 6 January US Capitol Attack

A judge ordered them both to remain jailed. According to court documents, Denney used social media to recruit members to join his militia group, the Patriot Boys of North Texas, and travel with him to Washington DC. Hazard briefly entered the Capitol and then fought with an officer as they were both falling down some stairs under scaffolding. The officer was knocked unconscious and injured his head, foot, and arm. According to the complaint, agents obtained messages between the two men as early as 21 December 2020.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, NBC5

(U) Utah - Norteños Street Gang Members Sentenced to Prison After Massive Arrest

(U) Salt Lake City – A US District Court Judge has sentenced members of a drug distribution ring to prison in a large-scale case for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin in and around the Salt Lake Valley. The Judge in the District of Utah sentenced Joseph "Norte Joe" Gomez to 14-years in prison and five-years of supervised release. Gomez was sentenced along with 31 members and associates of the Norteños street gang. Most defendants have received sentences ranging between 72-96-months. The DEA and IRS-CID started the Gomez investigation in 2018 on a complaint that Gomez and his associates were allegedly transporting drugs from Mexico into the US, and then moving and distributing it in the Salt Lake City area. After collaborating with Mexican drug cartel members, Gomez would bring in shipments from Los Angeles and distribute them locally.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, ABC4

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Cambodia – Police Seize More Than Two-Tons of Ketamine in Anti-Drug Operation

(U) Phnom Penh – Cambodian police killed one man accused of trafficking, and seized two-tons of ketamine in a major anti-drug operation in the past few days. The deputy chief of Cambodia's National Police told reporters that 13 individuals accused of either drug trafficking or being involved in its manufacture were also arrested. Officers found about 1.5-tons of ketamine powder stuffed into rice sacks when they stopped a car on the road to the port of Sihanoukville. Police believe the drugs were headed for Taiwan. At least three of the people arrested were from Taiwan and helped run the drug operation. Another 700-kg of ketamine was discovered later when the police raided a factory believed to be behind the drug operation.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, AP News

(U) Tonga – More than Fifteen Gunman Break into Mall, Use Explosives to Break Safes

(U) Mpumalanga – Mpumalanga police have taken in a group of people for questioning after several break-ins at retail stores at Tonga Mall during the early hours of Wednesday morning ended in a shootout with the police. More than 15 armed men broke into the stores and used explosives to break

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into safes. The mall's security guards were on patrol at different spots when the break-in began. Seven shops had already been broken into when the police arrived. The robbers used explosives in two broken into shops to destroy the safes. A preliminary investigation showed that the robbers stole cellphones, clothing, and money from the shops.

SOURCE: 15 December 2021, News 24

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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